

MELKSHAM URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT.
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Melksham Urban District Council.

Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit this, my Twenty-fifth Annual Report on the state of the Public Health in the Melksham Urban District.

The contents and arrangements are, as far as possible, in accordance with Circular 49/45 (England) of the Ministry of Health, dated 19th March, 1945.

GENERAL.

Area - 1042 acres.

Estimated Population - 6,600.

Rateable Value - £33,715.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £132.

BIRTHS.

		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	{ Legitimate	54	57	111
	{ Illegitimate	6	5	11
	Total	60	62	122.

Birth rate - 18.48

Birth rate for England and Wales 17.6

		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	{ Legitimate	1	-	1
	{ Illegitimate	-	-	-
	Total	1	-	1

Still Birth Rate - .15

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales - .50

These are the official figures and are correct statistically, but that the total births occurring in the district during 1944 were as follows:-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Legitimate	263	225	488
Illegitimate	48	50	98
	311	275	586

DEATHS.

The total Deaths for the year are 60.
Death Rate - 9.09

Death Rate for England and Wales - 11.6

The causes of deaths were; -

	<u>Total</u>
Cancer, all forms	13
Tuberculosis	1
Diabetes	1
Stroke	2
Heart Disease	18
Bronchitis	2
Pneumonia	1
Intestinal Disorders	1
Diarrhoea (under 2)	2
Appendicitis	1
Nephritis	4
Premature Birth etc.	2
Accident and other causes	<u>12</u>
Total	<u>60</u>

No deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes occurred during the year and this is especially satisfactory having regard to the actual number of births in the district during the year under review.

There were no deaths from infectious disease during the year except one due to pulmonary tuberculosis.

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

	M.	F.	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	1	-	-
	4	1	<u>5</u>

Death Rates; -

1. All infants per 1,000 live births - 41
England and Wales - 46
2. Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births - 27
3. Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births - 91

There is no unusual or excessive mortality which requires comment.

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Melksham Hospital Ambulance (Phone 244) is available for transfer of cases up to a 24 mile radius. St. John's Ambulance Brigade provide a 24 hour service of trained ambulance attendants.

202 journeys were made over a total of 2,000 miles.

The Avon Indian rubber Co. Ltd. also have an ambulance in constant readiness for accidents in their factory.

Infectious cases are dealt with by the Wilts C.C. Ambulance working from the Trowbridge Isolation Hospital.

Creche.

The Creche at the King George's Field, Lowbourne continues to run satisfactorily and an average of 20 - 25 children are left there each day. Each child receives a hot meal at mid-day and tea in the afternoon.

Hospitals.

The Melksham Hospital, situated in Spa Road contains 42 beds, is staffed by the local practitioners and by a visiting staff of consultants from Bath who maintain a regular service in medicine, surgery and ophthalmology. The Ear, Nose & Throat Surgeon is at present serving in the R.A.M.C.

The Royal United Hospital, Bath, through its Consultants, work in close liaison with the Melksham Hospital and all cases requiring specialist investigation and treatment are treated at that Hospital.

Both these Hospitals are voluntary Hospitals.

Immunisation.

This work is carried out by the County Council's Staff and no separate figures are available for Melksham Urban District, but the percentage of school children and under fives immunised in the County against diphtheria approximates to 96.5 and 60% respectively.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified are as follows; -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	28	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric (including typhoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Measles	10	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	1	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	-
" polioencephalitis	1	1	-

ACES.

DISEASE.	Under 1 yr to 2 yrs	AGE.										Total
		1	2	5	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	
Scarlet Fever		1	2	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	28
Whooping Cough	2	1	2	2	2	6	1					16
Measles	1	1	1	1	3			2		1		10
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis											1	1
Acute Polio- encephalitis										1		1
Erysipelas										2		2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Set out below are particulars of new cases and deaths of respiratory and non-respiratory cases of tuberculosis; -

AGE PERIODS	New Respiratory		Gases Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-				
1-			1	
5-				
15-		1		
25-	1			
35-	1			
45-				
55-		1		
65 & over				
Total	2	2		1

Civil Defence.

The standard of efficiency, noted in my last year's report, of the members of the Civil Defence organization, was fully maintained at an extremely high level. Great keenness was shown by all members and the service was a great credit to the Town.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The whole of the area is supplied by the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board, and during the year a shortage was experienced in the higher parts of the Town, which became acute during the summer months.

Generally speaking the supply of water is now adequate as many parts of the Town during the whole year experienced difficulty in obtaining water during the morning when most water is used. In some cases there was insufficient water to flush water closets.

The standard of purity of the water supplied is satisfactory.

Sewerage.

The Town is served by the separate systems and the Sewage Works is adequate to meet the present needs.

Refuse Collection.

Refuse is collected in the Town weekly, and one collection is made for salvage.

Smoke Abatement.

There was no smoke nuisance reported during the year.

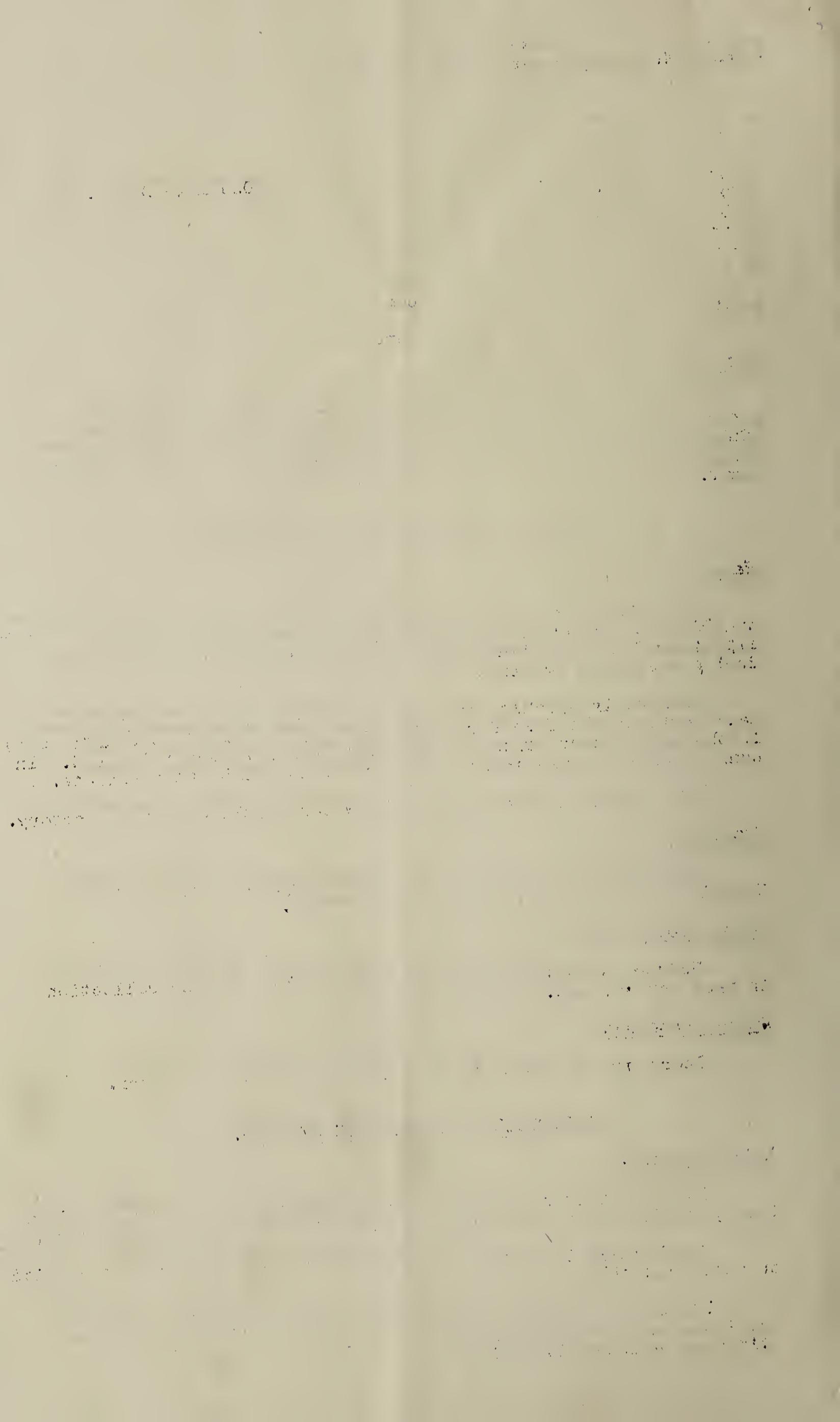
INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supplies.

The milk factories are all satisfactorily maintained and have been periodically inspected by myself and your Sanitary Inspector.

One licence is granted to pasteurise milk and has been carried on satisfactorily.

There are eighteen dairy farms in the district. Two farms are licenced by the County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and one Accredited milk.



Food Supplies.

All the animals slaughtered for butcher's meat are inspected at Trowbridge at the time of slaughter. In addition the Council employs a part time Meat Inspector who regularly inspects the butchers shops, and during the year the following has been surrendered as unfit for human consumption;—

Beef;— 36 lbs. Tuberculosis.
530 " Decomposition.

Pork;— 36 lbs. Tuberculosis.

In addition one 7 lb. tin of Chopped Ham was surrendered.

Leigh Green

Medical Officer of Health.

